

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB G1  
1. In a computer network, a method for installing software onto a remote client machine, comprising:

initiating a connection at a server to the client

5 machine;

transmitting an installation service from the server to the machine; and

executing the installation service.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein initiating a connection to the client machine includes discovering the client machine.

15 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising, evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine.

20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the discovery information associated with the client machine is evaluated against a set of rules.

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5. The method of claim 3 wherein evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine includes determining whether the client machine is included or excluded.

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6. The method of claim 3 wherein evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine includes checking the operating system of the machine.

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7. The method of claim 3 wherein evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine includes checking at least one property of the machine.

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8. The method of claim 3 wherein evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine includes determining whether certain software is already installed on the machine.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein initiating a connection to the client machine includes creating a configuration request for the client machine.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein initiating a connection to the client machine includes processing the configuration request.

5 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising queuing the configuration request.

10 12. The method of claim 11 wherein initiating a connection to the client machine includes dequeuing and processing the configuration request.

15 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the installation service comprises a bootstrap service, and wherein executing the installation service includes running the bootstrap service to connect to the client machine to another server, and transmitting additional software from the other server for installing on the client machine.

20 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising, installing optional components on the client machine by executing the additional software.

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15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

16. In a computer network, a system for selectively installing management software onto remote client machines, comprising:

a data manager for evaluating information associated with discovered machines, and for selecting one of the remote client machines as a selected client machine;

10 a configuration manager for initiating a connection to the selected client machine; and

an installation service transmitted by the configuration manager to the selected client machine, the installation service installing at least part of the management software on  
15 the selected client machine.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the data manager selects the client machine by evaluating discovery information associated with the client machine against criteria.

20 18. The system of claim 17 wherein at least part of the discovery information associated with the client machine is maintained in a data discovery record.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein the data manager produces a configuration request for the selected client machine, and wherein the configuration manager receives the configuration request.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the configuration request comprises a client configuration record.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the configuration request is placed in a queue by the data manager and removed from the queue by the configuration manager.

22. The system of claim 21 further comprising a retry queue.

23. The system of claim 16 wherein the installation service comprises a bootstrap service for installing additional management software on the selected client machine.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the additional management software is downloaded from a client access point.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein the bootstrap service is configured to connect the client machine to another server.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the other server transmits additional software for installing on the client machine, and wherein the additional software installs optional components on the client machine.

27. In a computer network, a method for installing management software onto a remote client machine, comprising: attempting to initiating a connection at a server to the client machine, and if successful:

transmitting an installation service from the server to the client machine, and executing the installation service;

and if not successful:

secondarily attempting to initiate a connection at the server to the client machine, and if successful, transmitting an installation service from the server to the machine, and executing the installation service.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising,  
evaluating discovery information associated with the client  
machine.

5        29. The method of claim 27 wherein attempting to  
initiate a connection to the client machine includes,  
associating a configuration request with the client machine.

10       30. The method of claim 29 wherein attempting to  
initiate a connection to the client machine includes queuing  
the configuration request, dequeuing the configuration  
request, and processing the configuration request.

15       31. The method of claim 30 wherein the attempt to  
initiate a connection to the client machine is unsuccessful,  
and further comprising, secondarily queuing the configuration  
request.

20       32. The method of claim 31 wherein secondarily  
attempting to initiate a connection to the client machine  
includes dequeuing the secondarily queued configuration  
request.

33. The method of claim 29 further comprising, modifying the configuration request by writing data thereto indicative of installation service executing on the client machine.

5 34. The method of claim 33 further comprising, queuing the configuration request having the data written thereto.

35. The method of claim 34 further comprising, dequeuing the configuration request having the data written thereto, 10 determining if the installation service executed successfully, and if not, reattempting execution of the installation service.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein reattempting 15 execution of the installation service includes removing the data written to the configuration request.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising queueing the configuration request having the data removed therefrom.

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38. The method of claim 27 wherein the installation service comprises a bootstrap service, and wherein executing the installation service includes running the bootstrap service to connect to the client machine to another server, and transmitting additional software from the other server for installing on the client machine.

38. The method of claim 27 further comprising, installing optional components on the client machine by executing the additional software.

39. The method of claim 27 wherein secondarily attempting to initiate the connection includes delaying for a period of time.

40. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 27.

41. A method for installing software onto a client machine, comprising:

determining whether a user that is logged onto the client machine has sufficient security rights, and if so:

5           executing a process at the client machine to  
          install the software;

and if not:

          initiating a connection at a server to the  
          client machine, transmitting an installation service  
10       from the server to the client machine, and executing  
          the installation service to install the software.

42. The method of claim 41 further comprising,  
evaluating discovery information associated with the client  
15 machine.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein initiating a  
connection to the client machine includes associating a  
configuration request with the client machine.

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44. The method of claim 43 wherein initiating a connection to the client machine includes, queuing the configuration request, dequeuing the configuration request, and processing the configuration request.

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45. The method of claim 43 further comprising, modifying the configuration request by writing data thereto indicative of installation service executing on the client machine.

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46. The method of claim 45 further comprising, queuing the configuration request having the data written thereto.

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47. The method of claim 46 further comprising, dequeuing the configuration request having the data written thereto, determining if the installation service executed successfully, and if not, reattempting execution of the installation service.

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48. The method of claim 41 wherein the installation service comprises a bootstrap service, and wherein executing the installation service includes running the bootstrap service to connect to the client machine to another server, and transmitting additional software from the other server for installing on the client machine.

49. The method of claim 48 further comprising, installing optional components on the client machine by executing the additional software.

50. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 41.